Scheduled Desert Area in the Western Region of the country for timely detection and control of locusts, maintaining readiness in term of control measures including pesticides and equipment, and exchange of information with neighbouring countries and FAO.

Forest dwellers

*192. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of forest dwellers having no order of settlement in the country State-wise;

(b) how many of them belong to Scheduled Tribes;

(c) whether Government are going to relax the rules in order to facilitate these families for the use of forest produces under some control; and

(d) the details of the programme of Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The details in respect of number of forest dwellers including Scheduled Tribes are maintained by the respective State/Union Territory Government.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has requested the State/Union Territory Government to assign ownership of minor forest produce to forest dependent communities including tribals. Moreover, the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 13.12.2005. The Bill *inter-alia* provides for recognition and vesting of forest rights in the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes, who have been residing in such forests for generations and includes right to collect, utilize or transfer minor forest produce in such manner as may be prescribed.

Retrieval of Railway land from encroachers

*193. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3013 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th May, 2006 and state:

(a) the number of cases with the area of land in each case with location